

BY TELEGRAPH

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FOR THE JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 18th, 1863.

The Senate concurred in the House amendments to the bill authorizing the issue of bonds for funding treasury notes. The third section of the act provides that bonds issued of or the one hundred million loan, be made redeemable at the pleasure of the government, at the expiration of five years from the date of said bonds. The exemption bill was further considered until adjournment.

Nothing of importance was done in the House, in open session.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 18th, 1863.

Northern dates to the 18th inst. have been received.

tion. He expressed the hope that the States would ultimately become separate and independent of each other.—

He condemned the odious and abominable proclamation of Lincoln, which emancipated the slaves in the rebel States. "You rumormongers of a contingent recognition by Napoleon are ventilated by the London press."

There was a discussion of the crisis of a difficulty between the British Government and the Cabinet at Washington, relative to the seizure of British vessels in the Bahamas.

The London Times says: "Perchance at no time during the war has fortune decreed so decidedly against the North as over the whole area of military operations."

Northern war news is unimportant. Orders have been issued prohibiting the circulation of newspapers in the Valley of the Potomac.

Yaldingham, a speech at Newark, said that seventy-five out of every hundred at the Northwest were in favor of a cessation of hostilities, and the commencement of the experiment of restoring the Union by Constitutional and peaceful means. Towards the close of his speech,

Gold, in New York, closed at 155½.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 19th, 1863.

In the Senate to-day the House resolution of thanks to General Magruder, and the officers and men of his command, for the achievement at Galveston, was unanimously concurred in. The House bill refunding to Alabama the amount of war tax on her cotton, was also concurred in. The bill was further considered. Henry's substitute for the second section was agreed to. It exempts one person on each farm or plantation, the sole property of a minor, persons of unsound mind, *feme sole* or person absent from home in the military or naval service of the Confederacy, on which there are twenty or more slaves, etc. Pending the future consideration of the bill, the Senate passed the House bill to prevent fraud in the quartermaster's and commissary's departments. The consideration of the currency question was resumed in secret session.

THE YANKEE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

It has been ascertained that about twenty-five or thirty

thousand Yankee troops have been sent from his army of 10,000 men to the North and Newport News. Burnside's old division occupies the latter place. Cabins, ovens and other evidences of protracted encampment have been erected. Five steam transports are, however, kept in readiness in Hampton Roads.

FOREIGN NEWS.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 19, 1861.

The New York Herald of the 16th inst., says that the Ohio Legislature has passed strong revolutionary resolutions chiefly made up of violent denunciations, against President Lincoln's administration, and of propositions for an armistice and a peace Convention at Louisville. Similar resolutions were pending in the Indiana Legislature.

The President Davis' speech, which has attracted so much attention in England, The Post, Palmerston's organ, commends its ability, acknowledges the right of secession, and promises the recognition of the South at a future day.

prominent Republicans have been heard to announce themselves in favor of peace upon any terms. The expression

of such sentiments caused quite a commotion among the politicians at Washington.

The report of the committee on Territories shows that the Mormons are openly inimical to the government of the United States.

The Indian bureau has received information that the Sioux and Pawnees have made a treaty of peace with the Government.

The Polish insurrection has been suppressed.

News from Mexico indicates that the French are making but little progress.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 19, 1863.

The French War Steamer *Mihan* arrived here to day, and now lies anchored with the British Steamer *Petrel* with the harbor.

THE WEST.
PORT HUDSON, Feb. 17th, 1863.

captain Carson, from Red River, brings information that the crew of the Federal Steamer Queen of the West, at Gordon's landing, Fort Taylor, on Red River, The Queen of the West captured the Confederate steamer Mrs. Hays, and forced her pilot to take her to the wreck and order her crew to disembark on our waters. The vessel was a full rigged ship, but finally took the water under Yankee guard. Upon reaching the batteries he told the Yankees that they were fifteen miles below them, immediately put her to port, when she was captured a shot which broke her starboard pipe and disabling the boat. The Yankees took her to the wharf and impounded her for the night, with respect to no danger. Bulkhead was removed and the vessel was towed to the wharf, and the opposite shore, when her crew made their escape, with the exception of a girl, who fell into our hands. The crew subsequently got aboard the Yankee boat Desoto, and with two hundred stolen negroes, effected their escape, and The Queen of the West is now in the possession of the Confederates.

It is reported that the Yankee gunboat Indianola has gone up Red River to re-capture her.

The conduct of Burke excited the highest encomiums. Later intelligence states that the C. S. Steamer West closely pursued and recaptured the Era. The Era disabled in one wheel. The Queen of the West was but slightly injured and will soon be in fighting trim under Confederate colors.

Positive information states that the transport Despatch was burned by the Federals to prevent her falling into the hands of the Confederates.

**FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE CAPTURE OF THE
FEDERAL LA M QUEEN OF THE WEST**

PORT HURON, La, Feb. 15th, 1863.

The Alexandria Democrat, Eureka, has been received, contains the official report of the capture of the Queen of the West, from Capt. J. Keiso, commanding the fortifications on Red River. He says that two gunboats made the appearance in front of this position at five o'clock in

Queen of the West struck her colors immediately. I ordered Capt. Hutton, of the Crescent artillery, and Lieut.

The Lehighs to go aboard and demand the surrender. These officers report but thirteen of the officers and crew were on board, the others having escaped under cover of the night.

The valuable results of the capture consisted in one thirty-two pounder, 1150 Barret gun, one twenty-four pounder, the twenty pounder, and one ditto slightly damaged, the capture of a large supply of ordnance stores, a large supply of game, 5 cases shrapneling instruments, clothing, 850 bacon, beef, pork, hard bread, and other stores in proportion.

The Democrat says that the victory was complete, grand and decided, and we are ready to capture all such craft as Vicksburg allows to pass.

DIED.

In Fayetteville, on the 15th inst., at 54 o'clock, C. THOMAS WADDILL, in the 66th year of his age. He leaves a wife and 10 children.

His loss.

There would seem to be some hitch in the Yankee arrangements for an attack upon Charleston and Savannah. Either Foster and Hunter refuse to co-operate, or the iron-clads are unmanageable, or something else is wrong or out of order. The impression now is that no immediate attack need be looked for in Charleston.

This whole affair of Foster's does look very much like an unprofitable job. His backing and filling, marching and counter-marching in North Carolina evidently yielded no fruits at all equal to the money and time expended; and the transfer of the force to another field appears to have been even more barren of results. Foster is said to have gone off in disgust, and Hunter has returned like a dog to his vomit and is now busy drilling his negro recruits.

The enemy has suddenly discovered that Charleston is a second Savannah, and that Savannah is not far behind it; and upon the whole they do not quite like the looks of things around these cities and will probably defer their attack until their preparations are more complete and their iron-clad flotilla more numerous.

In the meantime it would not be amiss for us here to keep our eyes open, for failing in the design against Charleston, the devil might put it into the heads of the Lincolnite leaders to make a sudden dash upon Wilmington in the hope of catching us unprepared or denuded of troops to repel them. That they will make the attempt at once is very doubtful, while their success in the event of their making it is still more so.

GENERAL BRAGG'S army in Tennessee is reported to be in excellent health, spirits and discipline. It has made no movement since the battle of Murfreesboro' and now occupies a strong position on the ground that it did the week after that event.

For some cause, best known to himself, the wily and usually active ROSENBAZ, also remains inactive. Either he wants supplies, or he awaits reinforcements, or the roads are out of order, or his transportation is defective, or his cavalry is not sufficiently numerous to protect his flanks. Any or all of these causes may operate to prevent his movement. At any rate he don't move, and probably will not for some time, especially with the murmurs of disaffection in his rear, arising from Kentucky and even from beyond the Ohio.

How many men of ROSENBAZ'S army will go out in May and June, we are not aware. Some thousands perhaps, and they among the best fighters he has with him; but that he cannot get more men from the Northwest, will require some more proof to convince us than anything we have yet seen or heard from that quarter.

Politics—the struggle for party power, has quite as much to do with the so-called peace-party at the North, as has any feeling of justice to the South, or any love of peace for its own sake.

ROSENBAZ is a Northwestern man and knows about as much in regard to the feelings of that section as any other, and there is hardly a man in or out of the army more bitterly rancorous than he is.

In fact, though there has been a good deal of talking about peace there has been a great deal of doing in the way of preparations for carrying on hostilities against us on even a more gigantic scale than ever before.

The proposed Peace Convention at Frankfort, Ky., will hardly amount to much at present. Sounding generalities—empty irritations to the South to "come back," etc., will do little or nothing. Bragg's army is said to be fuller in numbers and better in trim than at any former period. A blow struck at ROSENBAZ or Port Hudson, a decisive repulse at Vicksburg, a sound thrashing inflicted upon Fighting Joe Hooker might and would tend to add considerable force to the current beginning to set in favour of peace; but it will take these things to do it, and even an armistice, if agreed to, would only reveal the gigantic difficulties in the way of a definitive treaty of peace.

The question of boundaries—the possession of seaports, etc., etc., would all have to be settled upon some ground the basis of which would not be easy to arrive at.

But all this is premature. We must not calculate too much upon the movements West of the Ohio. They are only ripples as yet upon the surface, the main tide still is steadily against us, and in favour of a vigorous prosecution of the war. True enough, there must be at all times a sincere longing for peace. That exists at the South as well as at the North, but that does not make peace, while the objects of the war still remain to be fought over, and people on both sides are determined to fight over them.

The 22nd of February has come and gone without the threatened attack upon Charleston. The enemy has got pious lately and his attacks are not often made upon Sunday. Somehow most of his heaviest detachments have been ordered on that day.

Neither Foster's army from this State, nor the troops already in South Carolina under Hunter, are at all equal to the Confederates opposed to them, nor can they have the same confidence in their leaders. We do not know anything that either Foster or Hunter has done to distinguish himself in any way. They have no prestige of success, and no reputation for ability, whereas the case is very different with General BRAGG, who has both; whose name is a tower of strength alike for the assurance it gives that the best use will be made of the means at his command, as for the confidence and enthusiasm with which it inspires the men.

TOLLET SOAP.—The associate acknowledges the receipt of some Toilet Soap made by Mrs. GREER, of Wilmington. It is a pleasant flavor and washes well. We presume Mrs. G. has some for sale. Enquire of Mr. GREER, at Telegraph Office.

THE EFFICIENT BLOCKADE.—We avoid, as a general rule, any reference to the movements or position of our troops in this State, as well as to the location and character of our works. Even when vessels ran the blockade we feel that perhaps the less said the better, though in fact this last precaution on our part is nearly useless and wholly ineffective, for, in consideration of public policy we refrain from mentioning the names and class of vessels arriving here, we will be sure to find them mentioned in the papers of other ports, or, perhaps, in our tabling in the "correspondence" of some of our interior papers in this State. And in truth, although our avoidance of mentioning the name of blockade-runners has been from the first in accordance with what we know to be the wish of the several military commands in this point, we never could see much use in it, for with their spies at Nassau, Havana, Cardenas, and Bermuda, the Lincolnites know every vessel that is destined for this port or Charleston, and we do not believe that a single steamer has come in here of which they are not fully aware. Speed and opportunity alone saved them. Not ignorance on the part of the enemy. Speed and opportunity enabled them to get out.

With these remarks we preface our acknowledgments to the Lincoln blockade, for the great pains they have taken to develop the foreign trade of the port of Wilmington. They have been the means of enabling us to see some of the swiftest iron steamers that can be built on the Clyde, a class of vessel we could never have seen while we kept on our trade with New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

As these vessels seem to come in and go out with as much certainty as though Uncle Abraham's blockade was not in existence. It may be an effective blockade, but it seems to be only effective against salt schooners and corn-crackers. The "Union Jack" and the "Red Cross of St. George" is now quite familiar to our people. It is a little strange that with Cuba and Martinique convenient to a single Spanish or French flag has yet been displayed in a Confederate port.

From the West.
A friend writing us from the camp near Shelbyville, Tenn., under date of Feb. 18th says:
Our army is in fine health and spirits—stronger than we were before the fight at Murfreesboro', and getting stronger every day.

Everything is quiet in front to-day. It may be weeks before we have another fight here.
General Johnston is with us.

Creating a Terror.
Our Lincolnite friends kept browsing around through this State, threatening an advance upon Wilmington by land and water, and even made a feat of land advance, which proved to be only a feat, to the great disappointment of our generals; for we suppose it is no revelation of military secrets to say now that, if Foster and his army had attempted an advance as proposed, they would have been the worst used Yankees of whom history affords any record.

However, as we believe we suggested in our paper, it appeared likely that, after all, they said Wilmington but meant Charleston, especially after they found out a few things.

Well, they sailed out from Beaufort Harbor, North Carolina, and they sailed into Beaufort Harbor, South Carolina, and it was definitely understood that they would swallow Charleston upon sight, immediately, as one might say, or perhaps sooner.

They have looked into Charleston—we suppose they have had a talk—and somehow they don't like the looks of things. They are like the man that was stung by a bug—they are what you might call "demonized," and will hardly venture upon Charleston.

We are pleased to know that General Beauregard expresses the fullest confidence of success. He believes the city to be impregnable. This assurance we know he gave to a gentleman of high standing, through whom we got it, and we rely very largely upon Gen. Beauregard's skill—implicitly upon his saying nothing that he does not believe.

The enemy, if he comes to attack Charleston, will catch a tartar. He will come after wool and go back shorn.

A good deal has been said in reference to the issue of veracity between M. MERCIER, the French Minister, and Wm. H. SEWARD, Lincoln's Secretary of State.

We give the whole matter to-day so that our readers may judge for themselves. It looks very much like SEWARD gave MERCIER the lie, or insinuated that he was a fool. We don't see that we have much interest in the matter one way or the other, since MERCIER came simply in the interest of re-construction.

This humbug of re-construction has cost untold millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives. But for this dream the war would perhaps never have been initiated. It certainly never would have been prosecuted as it has been. Men like VALLENDIGHAM, RICHARDSON and others—good men too—have talked, and now talk, re-construction, and some of them have gone into the war and fought for re-construction—they would keep regarding it as possible, and even a thing desired by the people of the seceded States. But for that dream of the possibility of re-construction Northern Democrats would not have scolded the ranks of LINCOLN'S army, nor would foreign nations have withheld their recognition of our independent nationality.

This dream is pretty much dreamed out, and it only requires the war to be fully awake to the facts of the case, as they really exist, to bring about a very early cessation of hostilities. Let this ignis fatuus of re-construction only cease to mislead the mortal vision of the world, and all that will remain to be done will be the settlement of boundaries, mutual compensations, etc.

JOHN VAN BUREN, "Prince John" as he is used to be called, made himself very conspicuous a few months since by his opposition to Lincoln and Lincolnism—defied the Provost Marshal and courted arrest. Joux seemed to have gone on a grand rampage; so much so, indeed that a report reached here, via Newbern, that Joux had been arrested by the Lincolnites and rescued by a mob. Well, now, Joux has taken up the business of a re-constructionist, and has turned himself into a perfect apostle of the "vigorous prosecution" policy—all for re-construction.

Nothing can tend to prolong this war so much as anything that gives even the least countenance to the idea that re-construction is possible, desirable, or could be submitted to by the South. Any divisions among ourselves, any looking back to the flesh pots of the Federal Egypt, must have this tendency; and, of course be the means of doing harm and ought therefore, to be avoided by all fair and proper means.

TARKX has been some pretty heavy firing this morning to the seaward, supposed to be the blockade-shooting at a small schooner aground near the bar. But of this we are not certain.—Daily Journal, 23d.

Two English steamers, the Dorco and the Grubbe City, with full cargoes, arrived this morning in a Confederate port.—Daily Journal, yesterday.

Our Political.—Our small Democratic friends from (Oaks) the same who got big over Lawrence's no hold the unbridled air—by the unbridled air—the other day has been making poetry and spouting it in the U. S. House of Representatives. It is not so badly done either. Read it:

She has gone—she has left us in peace and pride—
Our strong-browed sister, so long at our side!
She has torn her own star from our forehead's glow,
And turned on her brother the face of a foe!

You were always too ready to see at a touch;
But we said—"She is heavy—she does not mean much."
We have seen her—she has left us—she has left us—
But she will never be forgotten—she will never be forgot!

They may fight till the buzzards are gorged with their spoil,
But the wolves are at the stake and the catamounts drop from their claws,
And the shark that he the pirate, the lord of the waves,
In vain is the strife! When his life is past,
Their torments will flow in one channel at last;
And the torments that rush from the mountains of snow
Roll untroubled in peace through the valley below.

Our Union is river, lake, ocean and sky;
Man lives not the medal when God cuts the die!
Though darkened with night, though cloven with steel,
The blue arch will brighten, the waters will heal.

O, Carolina, Carolina, child of the sun,
There are battles with fate that can never be won!
The star-spangled banner must never be faded,
For its blossoms of light are the hope of the world.

Do not, my dear sister, after and aloof,
Be so much away from me, my dear sister,
But when your heart aches, and your feet have grown sore,
Remember the pathway that leads to our door!

TO MY WIFE. For the Journal.
WRITTEN BY A PRIVATE IN CO., "D", 4TH REG'T. N. C. TROOPS.
Elizabeth, my dear wife, I am far from thee,
And yet, with all the bustle and the rage of war,
My thoughts for thee are, never, never, my babes are not
Forgotten.

So, my dear wife, be not, no matter where my lot;
Is it not for thee, through rain or shine, thy name, a star
Shall be,
To guide me to the babes I love, and home again, and free.

But now my dear, my country calls, the tyrant's slaves are free,
To crush beneath their horrid feet, our young Confederate child,
Their master Lincoln spurs them on, to every deed that's
Leaven.

Thy prayers, Elizabeth, we want, and all true wives like thee,
With Southern hearts, now to our God, their prayers rise fast and free;
Our children's prayers must also rise, to God, who is in heaven.

That victory upon our cause may speedily be given,
Then shall the land be free from those who our destruction
Have wrought. Within two weeks, I trust, our young
And show the world the Lord can give the battle to the weak.

My dearest wife, unto thy care my darling I confide,
With trusting heart, when I am near,—"Almighty help
Teach me to wrap him round, their young hearts pure and free,
Will never forget thy lessons taught—but always think of
Who led them to the God of love, that rules above the sky,
And raising their minds up to that, thought that souls will
Survive thee.

For the Journal.
CAMP COLE, 2ND REG'T. N. C. TROOPS.
BRAGG (CHARLESTON).
Joux's Editor:—I have now a few hours leisure after a travel of thirty-six hours from Wilmington, and as I think our friends at home would like to hear of us and from us, I have written a few lines to you.

When we left Wilmington on the 17th, it rained and it kept raining all the time we were on the railroad. However, we got to the camp in good time, and we are again with our tents, but the weather is not so pleasant as we could wish. As you are aware, our regiment is under the command of Col. Ruffalo. It is now some two hundred stronger than it was when it left the city of Richmond. Governor Vance's proclamation has worked remarkably well. Our regiment is now under the command of General Clinchman, who is in the field, and appears to enjoy the confidence of his men, the fullest degree. The general health of camp is good.

Of course I cannot give you any idea of our forces here, nor would it be proper for me to do so. I do know that the impression prevails that there will be enough to give the Yankees a warm reception should they conclude to try their hand.

The New York States that Lincoln has determined upon calling McCallan to the command of the army.—Upon the announcement being made there was a great stir. There was a great deal of talk, as did also the rest of the radical members of the Cabinet. For this and other reasons, Lincoln was induced to make no change for the present. Within two weeks, however, it is said, there is a chance that the command of the army will be again re-organized. The "Young Napoleon," the World says, is the man to be named. The "Young Napoleon" is the man to be named. The "Young Napoleon" is the man to be named.

REPORT OF GEN. CLINGMAN.
HEADQUARTERS CLINGMAN'S BRIGADE,
FARMER'S DIVISION,
February 21, 1863.

Before the departure of the party of 700 men, I directed that the 52d N. C. regiment, the 53d N. C. regiment, and the 54th N. C. regiment, should be accompanied by the 55th N. C. regiment, commanded by Col. Shaw.

From Major Gen. Smith, orders were received to pass to the south side of Neuse river and take a position intermediate between Goldsboro' and Dudley's Depot, on the north side of the railroad. I selected a point where the railroad is crossed by the road from White Hall, along which the enemy were expected to approach, and which is about one mile and a half south of the railroad bridge. During the day I was informed by the 51st N. C. regiment of my brigade, commanded by Lieut. Col. Allen, just up from Wilmington. In the course of the night following, the 52d N. C. regiment, of Pettigrew's brigade, commanded by Col. Marshall, arrived with orders to report to me, but to be held in reserve in the rear of the other two regiments.

On the morning of the 17th, being informed by one of Gen. Smith's staff, that he desired particularly to hear of me, I returned, with the 52d N. C. regiment, to Goldsboro', and was instructed by Gen. Smith to report to Gen. Evans, and with my brigade to accompany him in making a reconnaissance in force, to ascertain the position and strength of the enemy. Within a few moments after receiving this order, a dispatch was placed in my hands from my Adjutant General, stating that the enemy were reported by our scouts as being in three miles west of Goldsboro'. This was the road to Gen. Evans, and with my brigade to accompany him in making a reconnaissance in force, to ascertain the position and strength of the enemy. Within a few moments after receiving this order, a dispatch was placed in my hands from my Adjutant General, stating that the enemy were reported by our scouts as being in three miles west of Goldsboro'. This was the road to Gen. 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BY TELEGRAPH.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

Richmond, Feb. 21, 1863.

The Senate was not in session today.

In the House various resolutions of enquiry were adopted.

A bill passed for the establishment of an equalization grade of officers of the Navy. The House then went into secret session on the treasury bill.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 21, 1863.

Another French War steamer has appeared off the harbor.

This morning one of the Yankee gunboats, the *Sybil*, a flag of truce, has been sent in close to our batteries on Sullivan's Island.

A boat from Fort Sumter has been boarded by the *Sybil*. The unusual event caused much speculation concerning her object, but nothing is known in the City yet.

LATER FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 22, 1863.

The object of the Yankee flag of truce on yesterday was to bring orders from Lord Lyons to the British steamer *Petrel*, now here, to sail immediately to Washington.

to bring letters for officers captured on board the gunboat *Isaac Smith*. The *Petrel* goes to-morrow. As her purpose was to be here during the attack, many believe the attack has been postponed. Other indications confirm this impression.

The arrival of the *Hunter* and *Foster* has caused much confusion in the enemy's arrangements.

Fort Sumter today had a salute in honor of Washington's birthday.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

Richmond, Feb. 22, 1863.

In the Senate Mr. Orr introduced a bill to vest in the Government, as a part of its postage system, all the rights of the American Telegraph Company in the telegraph lines of the Confederate States.

The bill was referred to the Committee on postal affairs. The exemption bill was further considered and amended and finally ordered to be engrossed. The section relative to over-seers was amended, so that it should not extend to any firm on which negroes have been placed by division from any other firm since the eleventh of October last.

The House business was unimportant.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 23, 1863.

The French war steamer *Penelope*, while trying to run to the harbor this morning, ran ashore off Sullivan's Island.

The British steamer *Petrel* and the French steamer *Milan* have been trying all day to get her off, but so far have been unsuccessful.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 24, 1863.

A British steamer reached a Confederate port yesterday.

Another British steamer in entering this port last night ran aground on the shoals about a mile from Sullivan's Island beach, where she now lies in full view of the blockade.

She contains a valuable cargo from Nassau. The news at Nassau was unimportant. The ironclads *Chloris* and *Palmetto* have been ordered to protect the steamer *Isaac Smith*. It is expected she will be off this afternoon. The French steamer *Isaac Smith* was sighted off the shoals this morning, and a new within the harbor. It is also rumored that another merchant steamer from Nassau got aground last night, several miles above Sullivan's Island, but the report needs confirmation.

FROM THE WEST.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 24, 1863.

Parties from the front report have been heard in the direction of Unionville on our left yesterday morning.

It is reported that Beauregard has advanced, half way between Murfreesboro and Middleton.

Dispatches to the Nashville Union of the 18th, state that Fremont has been sent to Texas, and Butler returns to New Orleans.

Three prizes have been captured by the Alabama off Kingston.

DECISION OF JUDGE MEREDITH.

Richmond, Feb. 24th, 1863.

Judge Meredith, of the Richmond Circuit Court, decided today in the habeas corpus case, that every citizen of Maryland, and every foreigner who has once enlisted in the army, must therefore liable to conscription, if between the ages of eighteen and forty five years.

FROM THE NORTH AND WEST.

Richmond, Feb. 24, 1863.

Northern dates of the 24th have been received.

The Lincoln Legislature adjourned on Saturday.

The peace resolutions passed the House, but were prevented from passing the Senate by the withdrawal of enough Republicans to deprive the Senate of a quorum.

The gunboat *New Era*, seized near Island No. 10, three steamers containing clothing, arms, army blankets, Confederate uniforms, and a large quantity of other contraband goods. One steamer had a large rebel mail, containing valuable information.

A despatch from Fort Monroe, Feb. 10th, says that arrangements for the exchange of civilians have been perfected.

A despatch from Carlo says that a barge with seven tons and tons of coal, ran the blockade at Vicksburg on Saturday night.

The town of Bolivar Landing, fifty miles above Vicksburg, has been destroyed by the gunboat *Commodore*, in retaliation for the guerrillas firing into the steamer *Jenny Lind*.

The Brooklyn and Scotia were blockading Valparaiso, at last accounts. Another account says they were blockading the bayon, but having been strongly fortified deemed it best to withdraw for the present.

The Florida sailed from Nassau on the 27th January.

Fourteen steamers, sloops and schooners had arrived with cargoes of cotton and turpentine from Charleston and other ports.

The House of Representatives have concurred in the bill, already passed by the Senate, to provide a national currency, secured by the pledge of United States bonds.

A bill has been introduced for the enrollment and mustering into service past and present soldiers between 30 and 45 years, excepting the Governors of States, Judges, the sons of poor widows, and a few others, giving a military force of three millions; the officers to be appointed by, and directly accountable to, the President, who are to do the enrollment; and the men are to be called for by draft in such numbers, and assigned to duty in such manner, as the President pleases. Heavy penalties are imposed for resistance or counseling resistance to the draft.

Commander Woodhull, of the U. S. Navy, was killed at Fort Marshall, near Baltimore, by the accidental discharge of a gun, while a salute was being fired in honor of General.

The Kentucky House of Representatives resumed on the 11th, the resolution passed the day previous, inviting Commissioners from other State Legislatures to meet the Commissioners of that body at Louisville.

Barnides has assumed his new command at New York.

The Connecticut Democratic Convention at Hartford, nominated Thomas H. Seymour for Governor. Strong resolutions were adopted denouncing the usurpation by the general government, the military bill, national currency bill, conscription proclamation, suspension of the habeas corpus, the abridgment of freedom of speech and the press, compensated emancipation scheme, and the dismemberment of the State of Virginia, and pledging the Western States to unite with them in a measure for the cessation of the war and the restoration of the Union.

Gold closed at 162 per cent. in New York on the 19th.

THE YANKEE BATTERIES SHELLED VICKSBURG.

Mobile, Feb. 24, 1863.

The correspondence of the *Advertiser* & Register, dated Vicksburg, Feb. 18th, says that the enemy have erected batteries on the levee in front of the City, and commenced shelling at one o'clock on yesterday on our batteries near the depot. Every shell came within the City, but no harm was done. Our guns replied slowly, giving short shot. From the position of their batteries that portion of the City from the levee to the river was shelled. The firing continued at regular intervals till night, and occasionally till morning. At daylight all was quiet.

LATER AND IMPORTANT FROM THE NORTH.

Richmond, Feb. 25th, 1863.

The New York Times, of the 19th inst., avows its conviction with reluctance, that the French Emperor has determined to open the Southern ports by the 1st of April, for the export of cotton, and that he will welcome rather than deprecate war as the consequence of such act.

The tone of the *Moniteur*, the general tone of the ministerial journals, and the recently changed language of the liberal press, combine, says the Times, to show that this is the policy which the French Emperor has resolved to carry out. The National Intelligencer does not share this conviction.

The Hon. Isaac Toussy has promised to stamp the State of Connecticut for the Emperor.

The Times says that Napoleon openly proclaims, at Washington, that Napoleon will break the blockade before the end of March, and, in so doing, he commences an intervention from France which he is actually taking place.

The *Knickerbocker* newspaper, was destroyed on the 24th, by convulsed troops in this place.

The letter of Gen. Scott, dated October 4th, 1861, has been called for by the Yankee Senate, which will show that Gen. McClellan treated Scott with disrespect, while the latter was commander-in-chief, and that McClellan had been court-martialed but for fear of doing injury to the cause.

On the 18th inst., Sterling Exchange commanded 180 in New York. The Times says this was brought about by the national loan bill and the discussion of French mediation.

Butler had a grand reception in Baltimore on the 19th. Thirty four young ladies, dressed in white and bearing flags, sang patriotic airs on a platform.

The Times says editorially, that the attack on Charleston was to have been made on the 10th inst.

The Commercial Advertiser says that the entrance to Charleston and Savannah harbors, to the torpedoed and obstructions, and we must not be surprised if an assault on those cities partake more of the nature of a protracted siege than an overwhelming assault. If Fort McAllister is a specimen of the enemy's fortifications, we may pause before we can contemplate an easy victory.

FROM PORT HUDSON.

PORT HUDSON, Feb. 24th, via Mobile 24th, 1863.

A flag of truce boat arrived from Baton Rouge yesterday, bringing 200 exchanged prisoners, belonging principally to the 8th and 9th Louisiana regiments.

New Orleans papers contain nothing of importance.

There is a report of the killing of Butler by Bouquoy in Washington City.

There are evidences of an early advance upon this point. Several military boats have arrived at Baton Rouge; also, reinforcements. It is reported that the Federal troops are strengthening a belt of the pioneers state that reinforcements are continually arriving at New Orleans, and confirm previous reports of the demoralization of "Yankee" arms.

Mr. Mercer's Visit to Richmond.

Sharp and Descriptive Note from Secretary Seward.

His Explanation of Mr. Mercer's Despatch to M. Thouvern.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1863.

The following communication was transmitted to the Senate by the President of the United States:

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate passed on the 9th day of February instant, in these words:—

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate, the character of the instructions given to the Secretary of State of the United States to the French Minister, as narrated in his communication to M. Thouvern, under the date of the 13th of April last, which induced M. Mercer to undertake his mission to Richmond in the month and day preceding the 4th of March last, and to make from that government, or from the Secretary of State, to the Confederate authorities.

Has the honor to submit the following report:

That no suggestion, were made to M. Mercer by the Secretary of State, that he should be engaged or calculated to induce him to undertake a mission to Richmond.

It was not then nor has he to any other person, ever been authorized by this government, or by the Secretary of State, to make any representations of any kind or on any subject to the Confederate authorities, or to any person at Richmond, or to hold any communication with them on behalf of this government.

From the moment of the present disturbance until the spring of 1862 this department was charged with the authority of granting passes or passports through the lines of the government forces. It early became a question whether foreign Ministers, residing in the United States, should be denied such passports. It was thought a sound and liberal policy to have them free to visit any part of the country to which they are accorded, so long as there was no ground to question their good faith toward this government. This has been uniformly avowed as the course of this government. Accordingly a passport was granted to M. Mercer, on the 13th of April, 1861, to the Hon. Frederick Schiedelmann, Minister Resident here, the Hon. Secretary of State, A. like passport was granted to August, 1861, to the French Minister, attended by his Royal Highness the Prince Jerome Napoleon, then on a visit to this capital; and in April last a similar passport to the French Minister. These passports were granted at the request of those distinguished persons respectively, and in good order of its suggestions, and the Hon. Secretary of State, suggested that they be granted in a private and unofficial capacity.

They were not a communication, whether formal or informal, verbal or in writing, from this government, or from the Secretary of State to any of the insurgents, and they brought none from any such person to this government, or to the Secretary of State.

Since the 4th of March, 1861, no communication, direct or indirect, formal or informal, has been held by this government, or by the Secretary of State with the insurgents, their allies or abettors. No passport has been granted to any foreign minister to pass the military lines except by the President's direction, and such ministers who have received such passports have, upon their return, stated upon the State, as well as the Secretary of State, and given their accounts, unasked, as he thought proper of the incidents of his journey. Of course, these statements are to be qualified so far as the facts relating to communications concerning the exchange of prisoners and other military matters in charge of the War Department may affect them.

Respectfully submitted, WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, Feb. 9, 1863.

M. MERCER'S ACCOUNT.

In order that our readers may be able to understand this most important diplomatic correspondence, we publish a literal translation of M. Mercer's despatch to M. Thouvern:

WASHINGTON, April 13, 1862.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE.

In our operation, which I had with him (Mr. Seward), under the impression of the satisfactory nature which he had received from the West, he laid before me all the reasons which he believed went to prove the approaching re-establishment of the Union.

As we were talking, the remark escaped me, *as I felt*, that I regretted the condition of things at Richmond. My reply to him, at once, that I could very easily do better; that all I had to do was to send for one of our ships that might carry me to Norfolk, and that he was entirely willing to give me a pass for this visit.

Having had no intention of calling out, and his proposal, I said to him, "I will not leave my colleagues, and I will not bring him my answer."

Taking all things into consideration, I conclude that from the moment I undertook this voyage, I was under the acquiescence so thorough of the Secretary of State, almost, as it seemed, in compliance with his desire, that it would be easy for me, by the exercise of a prudent discretion, to leave my colleagues to the protection of the general government, the military bill, national currency bill, conscription proclamation, suspension of the habeas corpus, the abridgment of freedom of speech and the press, compensated emancipation scheme, and the dismemberment of the State of Virginia, and pledging the Western States to unite with them in a measure for the cessation of the war and the restoration of the Union.

Gold closed at 162 per cent. in New York on the 19th.

THE YANKEE BATTERIES SHELLED VICKSBURG.

Mobile, Feb. 24, 1863.

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LATER AND IMPORTANT FROM THE NORTH.

Richmond, Feb. 25th, 1863.

The New York Times, of the 19th inst., avows its conviction with reluctance, that the French Emperor has determined to open the Southern ports by the 1st of April, for the export of cotton, and that he will welcome rather than deprecate war as the consequence of such act.

The tone of the *Moniteur*, the general tone of the ministerial journals, and the recently changed language of the liberal press, combine, says the Times, to show that this is the policy which the French Emperor has resolved to carry out. The National Intelligencer does not share this conviction.

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interrupted our commerce; that, in the disposition in which the population of the North seemed to be, recognition would not be given to the Federal government, and that, as peace was the only way we could form, and that we should consequently be disposed to do everything which depended on us, in order that it might be made as soon as possible in the convenience of both parties.

It was understood, I think, that I should report to Mr. Seward only what I was authorized to repeat to him. Mr. Seward said to me that I might add, if I found an appropriate occasion, that, in his opinion, the North was animated by no sentiment of vengeance, and that, for himself, he should with pleasure find himself again in the Senate in the presence of all those whom the South thought it fit to send there.

After this conversation, I wrote a word by telegram to the commander of the *Gassendi*, who was at Fort Monroe, to beg him to come and take me, at the earliest possible moment, on board his ship at Alexandria or Annapolis, and I begged Mr. Seward to take the trouble to expedite the delivery of the despatch.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

Enforcement of the Conscription Law in Mississippi.

Correspondence.

RICHMOND, Jan. 21, 1863.

Hon. E. Barksdale.

My attention has been called to an article in the *Mississippi* newspaper, and also to a published letter of yours quoted in sundry papers of North Carolina, to prove that the State of Mississippi has been exempt from the operations of the late "conscription act."

In North Carolina the law has been rigidly enforced. Our Governor has used all the power at his command for its faithful execution. It is reasonable, under these circumstances, that a similar view should prevail among the people in regard to its execution in other States. My published letter, unless satisfactory reasons should be assigned.

I trust that you will pardon the liberty I take in requesting that you will state whether this state of facts still exist; that the law has not yet been put in force in your State.

Very respectfully, THOS. D. McDOWELL.

JANUARY 31, 1863.

DEAR SIR: I will cheerfully respond to the inquiry contained in your note of the 4th inst., touching the enforcement of the conscription law in Mississippi. It is the duty of those to whom you have referred, was explanatory of the design and effect of the exemption law. The fact was incidentally mentioned that the late conscription act had not been enforced of that date, and that consequently no practical results had attended the measure which was discussed.

To suppose the *Mississippi*, which, together with my letter, has been made the basis of couplet against the action of the government, by newspapers in North Carolina, was the expression of indignation surprise that had occurred in the execution of general orders No. 22, dated November 3d, 1862, issued from the adjutant general's office, requiring all male white residents in the State, between the ages of fifteen and thirty, not exempted by act of Congress, or not already in the service, to be enrolled. When the attention of the President was called to this delay, inquiry was promptly instituted, and it was explained in the failure to receive the order by the officer charged with the duty of enforcement.

